



## Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

By Constance Pye

*Oh, to be at the King Caesar House  
Now that summer's here!*

This beautiful house, a prime example of federal period architecture, stands on King Caesar Rd. overlooking Duxbury Bay. Today the house is surrounded by majestic trees and lovingly tended gardens and walks. Across the street from the house a little park, once the King Caesar wharf for outfitting his ships, juts into the bay, adding a feeling of serenity to the peaceful vista.

But in 1809, it was quite a different matter. Ezra Weston II, and his wife, Jerusha Bradford Weston, built the house to overlook their shipping enterprise. Ezra II, who inherited the title "King Caesar" from his father, Ezra I, was the most prosperous ship-building and shipping entrepreneur in the state. In place of a sylvan park, Jerusha looked out on a wharf on which there was a blacksmith shop and warehouses, storehouses, carpenter shops. To the west there was a ropewalk and the spar soak; and across the Bluefish River lay the Ten Acre Yard, where Weston ships were built.

Much activity swirled around the house and the barn; and Jerusha Weston's gardens would have been kitchen gardens, perhaps with a border of a few posies.

The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society owns the house now, and has painstakingly restored it with the help of professionals and the generosity of Duxbury people who gave or loaned appropriate artifacts. Polly and Bill Wheelock are the curators of the house, and between them oversee the gardens, the house and the historical research that goes on there with the help of many, many members of the Society.

The King Caesar House is a wonder place to visit. Just ask the 5th graders in the Duxbury schools. It isn't a musty museum, but a real house where real people lived and worked. The rooms in the house contain furniture, china, and art of the period, as well as 19th century clothes, children's toys and handwork. In the museum (once the old kitchen), visitors may discover the location of Duxbury's old shipyards and examine artifacts brought back to Duxbury from the many Weston ships which, under the Weston house flag, sailed all over the world, from the Orient to the Black Sea.

Visit the King Caesar House. On June 18, it will open for the summer, Tuesday through Sunday, 3-5 pm. Hostesses will help you enjoy the house, and in the store you may buy any number of Duxbury and King Caesar House items.

*Come to the King Caesar House  
Now that summer's here.*

If you might want to help in the summer program at the King Caesar House grounds, call Bill Wheelock (934-2378); or if you are interested in being a hostess at the King Caesar House, call Jean Hill (934-2639) or Connie Pye (934-5715).